



## Meeting Minutes

### SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)

Thursday, April 6, 2006, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

SFWMD, Building B-1, Auditorium

3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL

Attending:

#### WRAC Members

Beverly Grady

Al Calloway

Terrence Rock Salt

Mike Bauer

Patrick Hayes

Walter Carson

Ray Scott

Ray Smith

Terry Manning

Douglas Bournique

Patrick Hayes

Judy Sanchez

Bevin Beaudet

Kim Shugar

#### WRAC Alternates

John Adornato

Douglas Yoder

Ken Todd

Harry Cronin

Jeff Schmidt

Barbara Jean Powell

Sally Robinson

Mike Bausch

1. Welcome and Introductions - Michael Collins, Chair  
Lake Okeechobee Report, will be delayed until after lunch.  
The decompartmentalization presentation will be just before lunch.  
Reverse 4 & 5 and change presenter Lt. Col. Andrew Goetz for item 5.
2. Member Issues – Michael Collins  
Welcomed new members Douglas Yoder alternate for John Renfrow, Jeff Schmidt alternate for Ed Wright USDA and Kim Shugar representing FDEP.  
There were no member issues.
3. Evolution of Water Management in the Lake Okeechobee/Everglades Ecosystem, Tom MacVicar, P.E., President, MacVicar, Frederico and Lamb

#### Public Comment

Beverly Grady – What is the natural depth of the lake?

Tom MacVicar – Originally average water level was 20' to 22'. Since about 1920-79 it has been an average of 12.5' and 15.5'.

Beverly Grady – The Historical data shows flows to the south. How much was the natural flow out of the lake to the south? 90% to the Everglades and sheet flow to the east and west.

Tom MacVicar – Sounds about right.

Walter Carson – What can we do today to create a healthy lake environment?

Mike Collins - The only way to do that will be to reconfigure the littoral zone.

Rock Salt – To take out the levee south of the Fisheating Creek edge of Kissimmee, will create many issues. We will loose much of the littoral zone to higher Lake level.

Walter Carson – With out moving the levee, can we reconfigure the levee to build littoral zone inside the lake?

Mike Collins – Theoretically it is possible; we have concerns about the levee. We are looking at the levee and Carol is briefing the Governor on the subject.

Rock Salt - Why can't you run more south? You run into the constraint of the conservation areas.

Mike Collins - Ideally some of that water needs to go south.

Patrick Hayes – Today nothing coming out of the lake goes south only rain.

Rock Salt – When conservation areas are full, no water goes south.

Patrick Hayes – Water goes south during dry season, CERP modeling was done during dry season period.

Rock Salt - Opening up MOD waters, part of Tamiami Trail is flowing thru WCA 3B will take 6 inches off the lake. When 3B opens up again it will be a major improvement in flowing water thru the south.

4. Lake Okeechobee "WSE" Regulation Schedule Alternatives – Lt. Col. Andrew Goetz, and Peter Milam, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Questions and Answers:

Andrew Goetz - We are trying to better balance the environmental health of the lake and estuaries, to be implemented by January and have model results released in the next few weeks and a tentative selected plan by May 10.

Beverly Grady - Will there be charts?

Pete Milam - That will part of the presentation on our website probably within the next three weeks.

Beverly Grady – STA constraints are very dramatic, STA 3 & 4 are the only ones designed to treat water from Lake Okeechobee, they had been built to take 243,000 acre feet of lake water so there is an estimated 60,000 acre feet to be moved.

Pete Milam - Based on the water quality within the lake we have constrained the model to move only 63,000 acre feet of water to the southern STAs.

Beverly Grady – So this constraint will impact meeting the performance standards

Pete Milam – That water will have to be moved to tide.

5. Acceler8 Update:

- C-44 Reservoir and STA Basis of Design Report – Tommy Strowd, SFWMD

Questions and answers

Doug Bournique – Can the C23 canal flow both north and south?

Tommy Strowd – The PIR shows it is designed to move south, but northern flow could be considered as it moves into planning design. That option may require pump stations to be built.

Doug Bournique – We have thirsty citrus that can use that water now instead of the estuaries. Do you have an updated Indian River Lagoon planning fund?

Tommy Strowd - No update

Rock Salt – Federal Funding? It is matter of budget priorities. A lot of priorities on the table, people are not optimistic.

Beverly Grady – What are the acre feet assigned to this reservoir? How many for the STA?

Tommy Strowd – The STAs are not for volume. About 30,000 to 40,000 acre feet for the reservoir STA design for flow thru. That is consistent with the PIR.

Beverly Grady - Is the STA design to take Lake Okeechobee water?

Tommy Strowd –No, it is designed to handle local basin run-off. It is not built for flood control, but water quality.

- EAA Reservoir A1 (Phase 1), Preliminary Design – Shawn Waldeck, Acceler8

Questions and Answers:

Members asked many questions regarding the EAA Reservoir presentation and discussed issues including:

- Amount of water flowing into and out of the reservoir.
- Amount of Lake Okeechobee water that can be stored
- Purpose of the authorized project and whether flood protection is project purpose.
- The Federal Clean Water Act Statute 404 and State Chapter 373.1501 permitting process.
- Whether water will be reserved for the natural process.
- Picayune Strand Pump Stations, Preliminary Design – Chip Eitel. Project Manager for Acceler8

Questions and Answers:

Members asked many questions regarding the EAA Reservoir presentation and discussed issues including:

- Whether the FDACS, Division of Forestry Draft Management Plan will provide some ORV use that would be compatible with restoration goals.
- Making sure user groups have a voice in the decision making process.
- The need to make sure reasonable and constructive solutions are discussed.
- Sizing of the pumps: some think they are too large and will over drain the area north of Alligator Alley, thereby accommodating inappropriate development in the north blocks.

Public Comment –

Newton Cook, United Water Fowlers Florida – The EAA Reservoir, will be 10 miles across it, is going to be the 5<sup>th</sup> largest surface water body in Florida. It is going to be hunted and fished. We are happy all the boat ramps are going to be there. The PIR is going to be followed. We are asking for safety features so people can safely go up and down the dike. Those issues can be addressed.

Lunch: 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

6. Decomartmentalization Adaptive Management Plan (CERP) Update – John Ogden, SFWMD

Questions and Answers:

John Adornato – Concerned about timing. It might not happen until 2010. Any monitoring before that date?

John Ogden – Construction will start in 2007, monitoring is in place now.

Rock Salt – WRAC recreation committee, unanimous recommendation for this group for partial backfill. Sensitivity to bass fishing, consistent with restoration.

Lake Okeechobee Committee Report –

Mike Collins – There is a resolution that came out of the Lake O Committee last week

Rick Smith – Summarized the Lake Okeechobee report Chip Merriam discussed the resolution from the Lake Okeechobee Committee.

Rock Salt – Was this recommendation approved unanimously?

Mike Collins - Yes it was unanimous.

Mike Collins – We will take to the Board next week.

7. Alligator Hunting in Stormwater Treatment Areas – Jerry Krenz, SFWMD

Questions and Answers:

Mike Collins – There is an impact on other species. We need to make the hunt longer.

Please, continue negotiations because we need more flexibility clearing gators

Barbara Jean Powell – We will work with you to expand that opportunity

Rick Smith - June WRAC in Naples conflicts with another conference. Asked committee if members wanted to meet in Naples next month at the Naples Beach Hotel. There were no objections.

Rick Smith - Site 1 Impoundment, WRAC/Acceler8 Issues Workshop is on April 19 at FAU, in Boca Raton. There will be also a series of Water supply meetings around the same period.

Adjourn: 2:40 p.m.